

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claim 42-49, 55-57, and 63-65 are now pending, with Claims 42, 43, 47, and 55 being independent. Claims 35-38, 40, 41, 50-54, and 58-62 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 42, 43, 46-48 and 55 have been amended. Claims 63-65 have been added. Support for the new claims and claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. For example, the assignment unit and steps recited in amended Claims 42, 43, 47, and 55 are supported at least by steps S11 and S12 in Fig. 11, and Figures 44A-44C and the accompanying descriptions thereof in the specification.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objects to Claims 42 and 51 for minor informalities therein. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Claim 42 has been amended to delete the objected to phrase, and Claim 51 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the objections moot. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

Formal Claim Rejection

Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, these claims have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Substantive Claim Rejections

Claims 42-47, 49, 50, 55, 57 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,552,743 (Rissman). Claims 51-54 and 59-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,106,461 (Kakigi et al.). Claims 35-38, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0084085 (Breidenbach et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0048534 (Tanaka et al.). Claims 48 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rissman in view of Breidenbach et al.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 35-38, 40, 41, 50-54, and 58-62 have been canceled without prejudice, and independent Claims 42, 43, 47, and 55 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 42 relates to a print system, in which an image supply device and a printing device directly communicate with each other via a communication interface, for transmitting image data to the printing device from the image supply device and printing the image data. The print system comprises a communication unit configured to establish a communication procedure between the image supply device and the printing device. The system also comprises a print control unit for

transmitting/receiving image data and a communication command between the image supply device and the printing device

Claim 42 has been amended to recite an assignment unit configured to acquire function information via the communication unit, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller as the operation controller of the print system by comparing a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device. Claim 42 has also been amended to recite that the print control unit is configured to transmit/receive image data and a communication command between the image supply device and the printing device based on an assignment assigned by the assignment unit, and perform a print operation by using the printing device based on the image data supplied from the image supply device, wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by the assignment unit.

In contrast, the citation to Rissman is not understood to disclose or suggest an assignment unit configured to acquire function information via a communication unit, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller as the operation controller of the print system by comparing a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device, as recited by amended Claim 42. Therefore, this citation is not understood to disclose or suggest a print control unit configured to transmit/receive image data and a communication command between the image supply device and the printing device based on an assignment

assigned by the assignment unit, and perform a print operation by using the printing device based on the image data supplied from the image supply device, wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by the assignment unit, as recited by amended Claim 42. Rather, the citation to Rissman is understood to disclose a digital camera-ready printer that can print directly from a digital camera, which includes a camera interface for linking with the digital camera and a processor for allowing a user to edit and manipulate an electronic image represented by a single frame of digital image data prior to printing.

The Office Action asserts that column 5, lines 31-35 shows the previously recited assignment means and assigning steps. But this portion of the citation to Rissman is understood to merely disclose that the user can edit an electronic image displayed on a display device 32 with a user interface 34:

Next to the display device 32 is a user interface 34. After the electronic image is visually displayed on the display device 32, the user may edit and manipulate the electronic image by utilizing the user interface 34 prior to printing.

Since amended Claim 42 recites at least one feature not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the citation to Rissman, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not yet established the anticipation or the obviousness of amended Claim 42 over this citation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 42 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claim 43 has been amended in a similar manner, it is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 43 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 47 relates to a printing device for directly communicating with an image supply device via a communication interface and for receiving image data from the image supply device to print the image data.

Claim 47 has been amended to recite that the device comprises a communication unit configured to establish a communication procedure with the image supply device, an assignment unit configured to acquire function information of the image supply device via the communication unit, the function information including at least supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by comparing the supporting level of the operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device, and a print control unit configured to receive the image data from the image supply device and print the image data based on an assignment assigned by the assignment unit. The image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by the assignment unit.

In contrast, the citation to Rissman is not understood to disclose or suggest an assignment unit configured to acquire function information of the image supply device via the communication unit, the function information including at least supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by comparing the supporting level of the operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device, as recited by amended Claim 47. Therefore, this citation is also not understood to disclose or suggest a print control unit configured to receive the

image data from the image supply device and print the image data based on an assignment assigned by the assignment unit, as recited by amended Claim 47.

Since amended Claim 47 recites at least one feature not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the citation to Rissman, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not yet established the anticipation or the obviousness of amended Claim 47 over this citation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 47 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claim 55 has been amended in a similar manner, it is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 55 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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